
**Indiana
Curriculum
Standards**
*K.2.1, K.3.3, 1.3.4,
2.2.2, 2.4.2, 3.1.6,
4.2.6, 5.2.8*

Grade Level: K-5

**Supplies: Paper,
Arrowhead
symbol**

Arrowhead Challenge

Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify the five resource types represented on the NPS symbol.
- Students will realize Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is part of the NPS memorializing the site where Lincoln grew to manhood.

Background:

The first national park, Yellowstone, was established in 1872. This was the first national park in the world. Today there are around 400 different national parks in the United States. This idea, that was born in America, has since spread throughout the world. National parks were developed to protect and preserve both natural and cultural aspects for future generations. They were established to provide enjoyment to the visiting public. In 1916 the National Park Service was established as a federal agency.

The arrowhead is the official symbol of the National Park Service. You will find it on buildings, signs, vehicles, and rangers' uniforms. Each part of the arrowhead represents the important resources that our national parks preserve and protect – including the arrowhead shape itself!

These are specific symbols selected for the NPS arrowhead.

Plants and forests

Wild animals

Scenery

Water resources

Human history

What does each symbol represent?

Sequoia Tree represents vegetation

(Remember not all parks have trees, some have cactus or prairie grasses.)

Bison represents wildlife,

including bison, deer, rabbits, sheep, bears and much more.

Mountains and water represent scenic values

(i.e. landforms, vistas, canyons, etc.) and recreational values for visitor enjoyment

The arrowhead represents historical and archeological values (people and our growth as a nation).

Why was the sequoia tree selected instead of an oak? Why was the bison selected instead of a white-tail deer? National in National Park Service. These are symbols that were impressive or significant to the nation. Bison once roamed most of North America. It was a large animal that symbolized the wildness of the American West, thus it was selected to represent wilderness associated with National Parks. The sequoia was believed to be the oldest living thing until the mid-1950's. One tree, named the General Sherman Tree is over 270 feet high, 115 feet around and over 3,000 years old. Because of their size and age these trees symbolize something that is unique and worth protecting.



Instructions:

1. Pass out paper and encourage the students to draw a symbol that represents them and the things that are important in their lives. Do NOT put your name on the front of your emblem.

What is the symbol or mascot selected for your school? Why was it selected and how does it represent your school?

Emblems are important to us because they represent things that we support or believe in. They are symbols that were specifically selected to represent us.

2. Ask, "When you think of a national park, what things do you think about?" The students may respond with things like: animals, trees, rangers, etc. Encourage them to think about the hat rangers wear and the patch. Show the students pictures of the ranger's hat and patch. These are symbols that stand for the National Park Service.

3. Ask, "Why are national parks special?" The students may answer, "To take care of animals and plants." Introduce the concept that parks take care of the rocks or land found within their boundaries. Rangers help to take care of people that visit the park. Rangers also talk about the people that are important to that park, such as Abraham Lincoln at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

4. Reinforce the idea that parks take care of people, plants, animals and rocks. Explain that these four things are all pieces of what makes up our national parks.

